Medical Aid (Annual): Existing Ceiling raised by Rs. 370|- p.a. for employees. The proposed ceiling of annual medical will be as under:—

(i) Service upto 5 pears Rs. 870|- p.a.

(ii) Service above 5 years Rs. 1070|- p.a.

Conveyance Allowance: Rs. 100 p.m. to clerical and subordinate staff.

Special Allowance: Existing Special Allowance enhanced by 20 per cent DA payable on special allowances.

SOME IMPORTANT MANAGEMENT ISSUES

1. Functions of special allowance carrying posts have been substantially enhanced—Monetary limits for handling independently transactions involving cash/cheques, instruments, etc. more than doubled in most cases.

2. Statement of the unions exhorting members for all out efforts for better customer service.

3. Resorting to restrictive practices as also misbehaviour towards customers to be deemed as misconduct attracting disciplinary action.

4. Contesting elections without explicit written permission, to be deemed as gross misconduct.

5. Misbehaviour towards customers shall tantamount to gross misconduct attracting disciplinary action.

Loan to Assam Government from French Co.

1058. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Hindustan Times dated the 2nd February, 1995 under the caption "Assam loan from French Co.";

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 2nd February, 1995 states that Mr. Jiba Kanta Gogoi, Assam State Finance Minister had, *inter alia*, mentioned in a Press Conference held at Guhati that the Assam Government has sought a loan of Rs. 7,000 crore from a French Company to invest in serveral industrial projects and that the final clearance from the Finance Ministry and RBI was awaited.

(c) The Assam Government has been informed that the loan proposal was not for external commercial borrowings.

Incentives to NRIs

1059. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has constituted a working group to look into various schemes and incentives available to Non-Resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the recommendations of the working group are likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, A Working Group has been set up by RBI on 14.10.1994 with respresentations from RBI and Government. The Working Group has been Constituted to review the various Schemes and incentives available to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) for investment in India, the operative procedures and to recommend modification|amendment to the schemes anr procedures as considered necessary, to the Government of India.

(c) The report is expected to be submitted by the Group shortly.